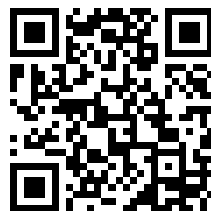

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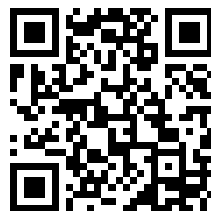
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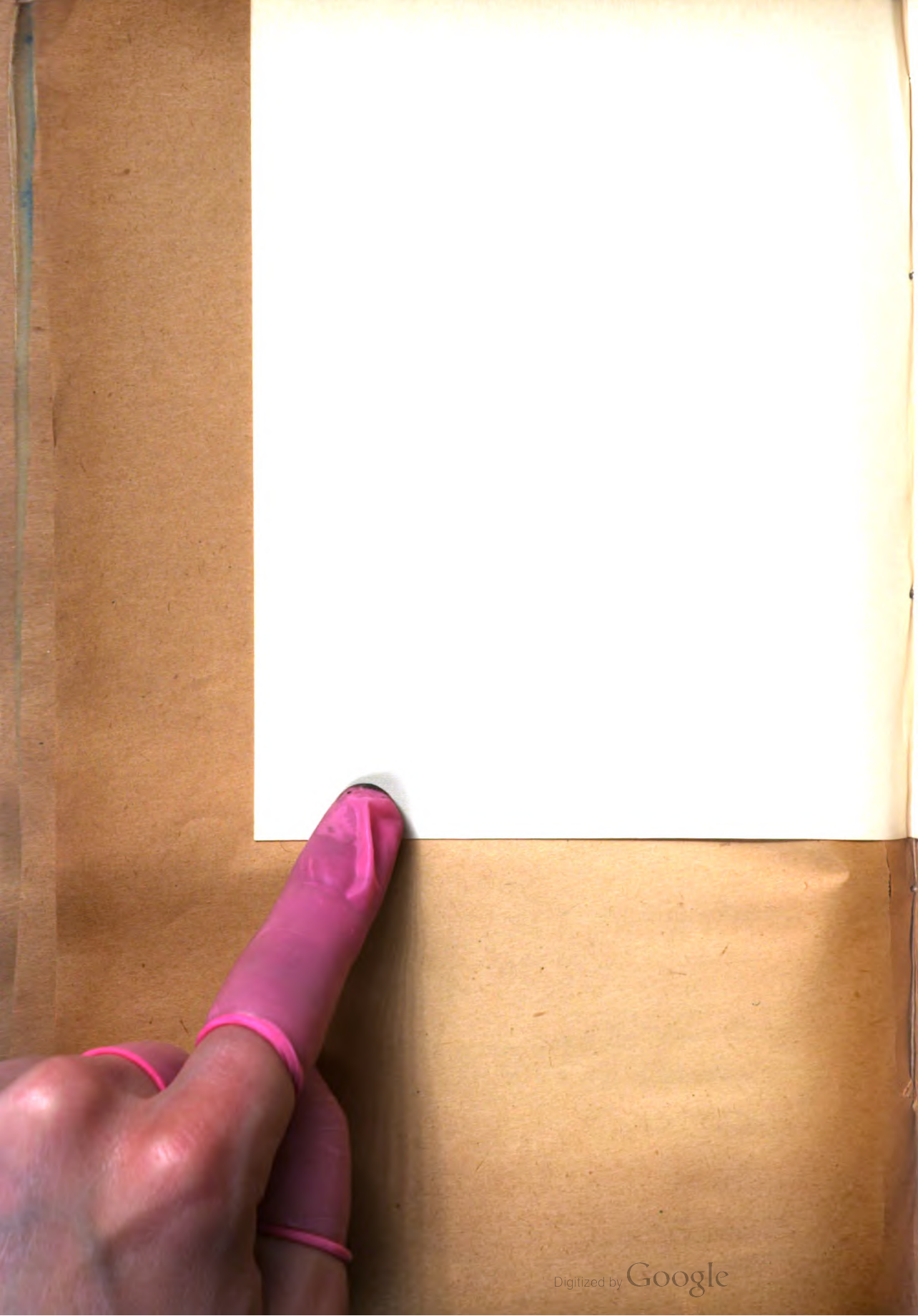
Liby

The Literary
of Workshop
Foreign Missions



The Literary Workshop.

The Library is a literary workshop containing the tools and materials by means of which to produce monographs upon every subject in the domain of Foreign Missions. It is of use to every several member of the Presbyterian Church in his effort to realize more fully what the work of missions really is, the character and peculiarities of the different races his Church is attempting to evangelize, and how he personally may more fully perform his duty thereto.



The Foreign Mission Library.

GENEROUS provision is made at the new Presbyterian Building for the Foreign Mission Library. Hitherto this library has occupied a small room greatly overcrowded with books and magazines, the accumulation of half a century, while the archives have been temporarily deposited in the attic. The material now collected in these two places includes the missionary correspondence of the past sixty years, and many documents and papers of value which thousands of dollars could not replace. In fact, were these letters, pamphlets, bound magazines, etc., carried away or destroyed, the records of the lives and thoughts of scores of men and women, which have been laid down in the Master's service on foreign fields, would be forever lost to the Church. In justice to their memory, and as a blessed heritage to posterity, these records should be carefully shelved and preserved in proper form for consultation.

For Board Officers and Editors.

In a work which touches equally the jungles of Africa and the colleges of India and Japan, the mountains of Kurdistan and the great trading cities of China, it is obvious that a very wide range of exact information is essential to the directing office. Those who are thus held responsible for the direction of this world-embracing missionary enterprise need to have immediately accessible a consulting library completely stacked with all books and pamphlets relating to the Methods, Biography, Theory, Biblical Exposition, and Statistics of Missions. And as the work of Missions develops

from year to year new methods of increasing the social power and influence of Christianity, it demands more scientific treatment; and while it requires still greater wisdom to keep it from becoming merely an educational agency, a deeper study of ethnology and sociology, of non-Christian religions and education, becomes more essential. At present, we deal with great sections of the earth's surface, as though the physical character were uniform and the peoples of one racial development, scarcely realizing how infinitely varied they are. The editorial work equally demands the very best information obtainable, including such general works as travel and description of various countries, with the most recent additions to scientific research in their geography and ethnology.

For the Missionaries.

The Library should be made the basis of greatly aiding the missionaries in their educational and church work, by furnishing them catalogues and literature relating to these subjects; by circulating reports of conferences, and forwarding them cuttings from papers and magazine articles descriptive of their own or contiguous fields. A missionary far removed from coast ports and American consuls has ordinarily no means of informing himself respecting his rights as a citizen of the United States in the country in which he is domiciled. Copies of the treaties and official correspondence, if any there be, are not at hand. He may have gone direct from a theological seminary without any practical experience to aid him in forming a judgment as to the best course to pursue when emergencies arise. It will be altogether a matter of disposition as to whether he shall fail, on the one hand, to maintain his rights, or, on the other, shall proceed on the basis of too great presumption

of the power of his government to protect him; thus causing great danger to himself and the interests of his mission, and producing unnecessary friction between himself and local officials or between the representatives of the two governments. We aim at securing the goodwill of all governments under whose general protection we conduct our work, as well as the confidence of our home government in our good purposes and discretion in the interest of peace.

For Workers at Home.

The Library should be the place where the students of missions in our church can obtain the best literature and information upon any mission field, or facts relating to the progress of the Church of Christ as a whole. It should be the centre where members of the Presbyterian Church in and near New York can be brought into familiar relation with their Board of Foreign Missions, without the necessity of taking the time of the Secretaries. At present the laymen who reside in New York, or who are visiting the city, do not, to any extent, visit the Mission House; and if, perchance, they visit it once, are not likely to do so a second time. They are sensitive about interrupting the officers of the Board. In fact, unless seeking speakers, they come rather to find out what there is to deepen their interest in missions or by which they may deepen the interest of others, rather than with any very definite idea or queries as to what information they want. It may safely be said that such visits from laymen, when properly met, make a lifelong impression upon their hearts, and greatly tend to make the foreign work a reality, and to insure their unfaltering support. The development of the work among the young people who are putting their enthusiasm into missionary meet-

ings and entertainments, and are fast advancing to a stage of more serious study, must be considered. Within a short time an entirely new and cheap literature, gotten up in pamphlet form, must be prepared to meet the demand of Christian Endeavor Missionary Classes. This Board should at least furnish the material as related to its own fields.

Comparatively few of the pastors in New York or vicinity have ever visited the Board's Library, which they might do to the profit of better foreign mission sermons. The very seeing of such a collection of foreign mission books together awakens inquiry, and the desire to sit down and read something which hitherto they have not had the opportunity to peruse.

Its Contents and Additions.

The Library already contains an almost complete collection of the missionary magazines and reports of twenty or more of the leading missionary Boards and Societies. Hundreds of pamphlets bearing upon missionary methods or descriptive of work in the several great fields of missionary enterprise are gathered into pamphlet cases and can readily be found. During the past two years the very best maps in sheets have been obtained from English, French, German and Russian Government Map publishers, giving our own mission fields on a scale as large and accurate as has yet been produced. A series of maps of atlas size has already been ordered from Bartholomew's, of Edinburgh. A large collection of photographs of missionary stations and illustrative of the buildings, manners and customs of many races has been added, while hundreds of magic lantern slides, available for lectures to young and old, have been secured. Printed or manuscript lectures accompanying the China, India and Persia sets have been

prepared, and churches availing of these sets at a small cost of two dollars and expressage, have thus been able to do without imported speakers. A considerable collection of idols and curios from Asia and Africa have been gathered into glass cases, so marked that it may be known both what they are and whence and from whom they came.

Its Possibilities.

The possibilities of the Library are many and varied; but under the new system it entirely depends upon what goes in as to what can come out. It would be improper for the Board to expend for this purpose any of the funds given for the direct preaching of Christ to the heathen, unless a greatly increased interest and giving on the part of the Church could be without doubt attributed thereto. The Library must, therefore, be largely self-sustaining and dependent upon the free gifts of those who are willing to donate the books and articles needed, and who see the necessity for its thorough equipment. The Library having been once thoroughly organized and equipped and made of popular use, all departments of the work will, in a sense, be tributary to it; all the missionaries and mission presses, books for review, publications of the Church, and exchanges, contributions by those who become interested and see that it is the most useful place to deposit such works of value as would ordinarily be sent to some college library. Probably a large number of books greatly needed to complete the list of works on various subjects upon which, at present, we are, in a progressive age of thought, twenty years behind the times, would be donated by friends who have them in their private libraries, if it were only known that they were wanted.

Its Immediate Needs.

For furnishing are needed an oak map case built according to specifications, costing probably \$100; a large globe, \$150; photographs and detailed maps of mission fields; articles illustrating native life, industries and customs. *In books*, bound volumes of *Harper's*, *Century*, *Review of Reviews*, etc., works of travel, atlases, best and latest; encyclopædias, Chambers' and Britannica; works on non-Christian religions and education; missionary stories and biographies; as many as ten duplicates of some of the most readable missionary narratives, like those of John G. Paton, could be profitably circulated. If any friend has anything with which he would willingly part, were he persuaded that it would be more usefully employed by the Foreign Mission Library, and will kindly notify the Librarian, it will give him the opportunity of suggesting where such things can be sent to the best advantage. As such a work involves a very large postage bill, to be met out of the general funds, those using the Library should not expect other contributors to pay the simple cost of transportation of what they receive or on what they donate. Purchases of missionary books—not of general literature—can be made through the Library at some saving in price. Probably the advantage, if any, *excepting in special cases*, will be in favor of ordering through the Board of Publication.

W. HENRY GRANT,

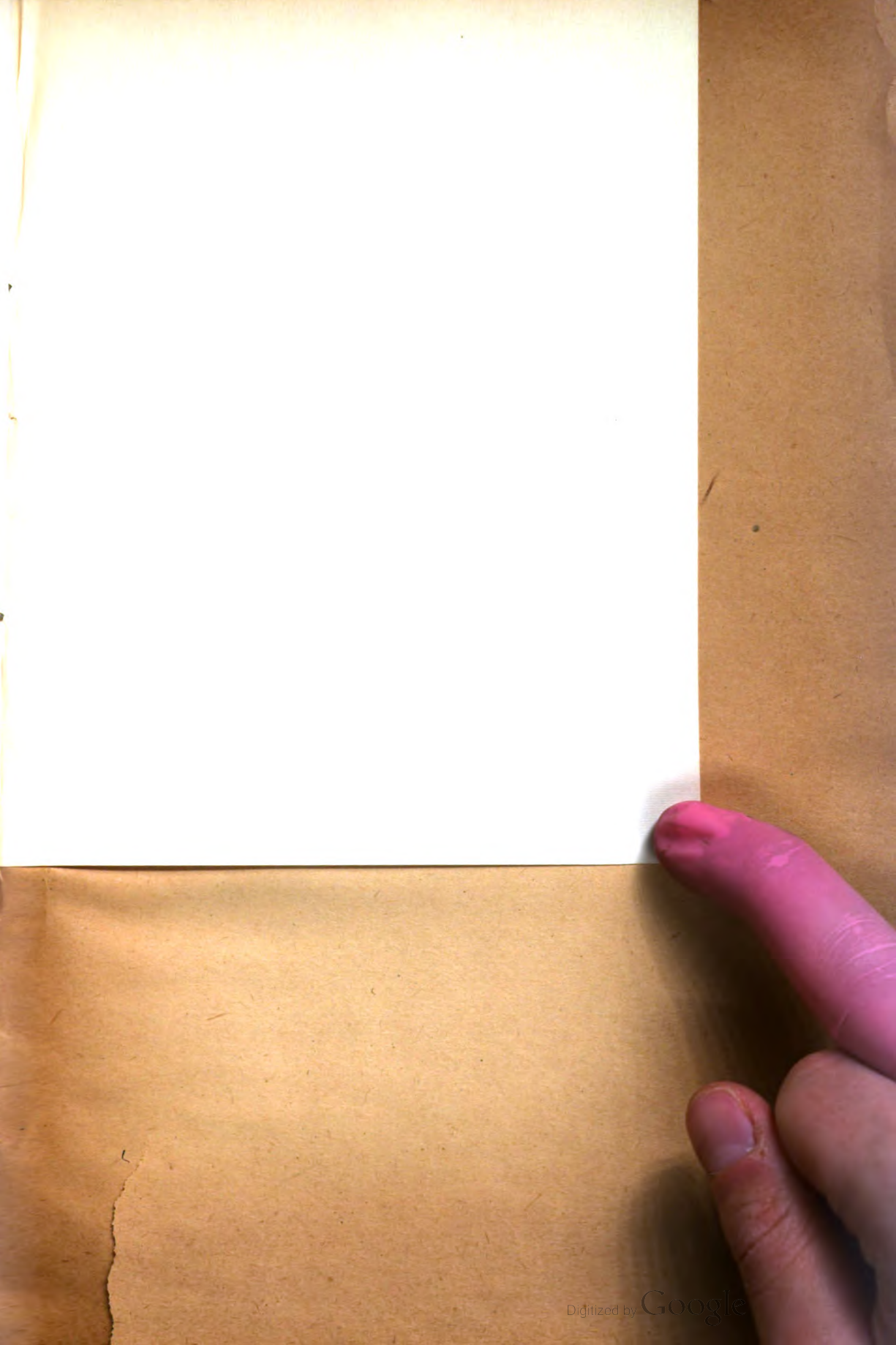
53 Fifth Avenue, January 24th, 1895.

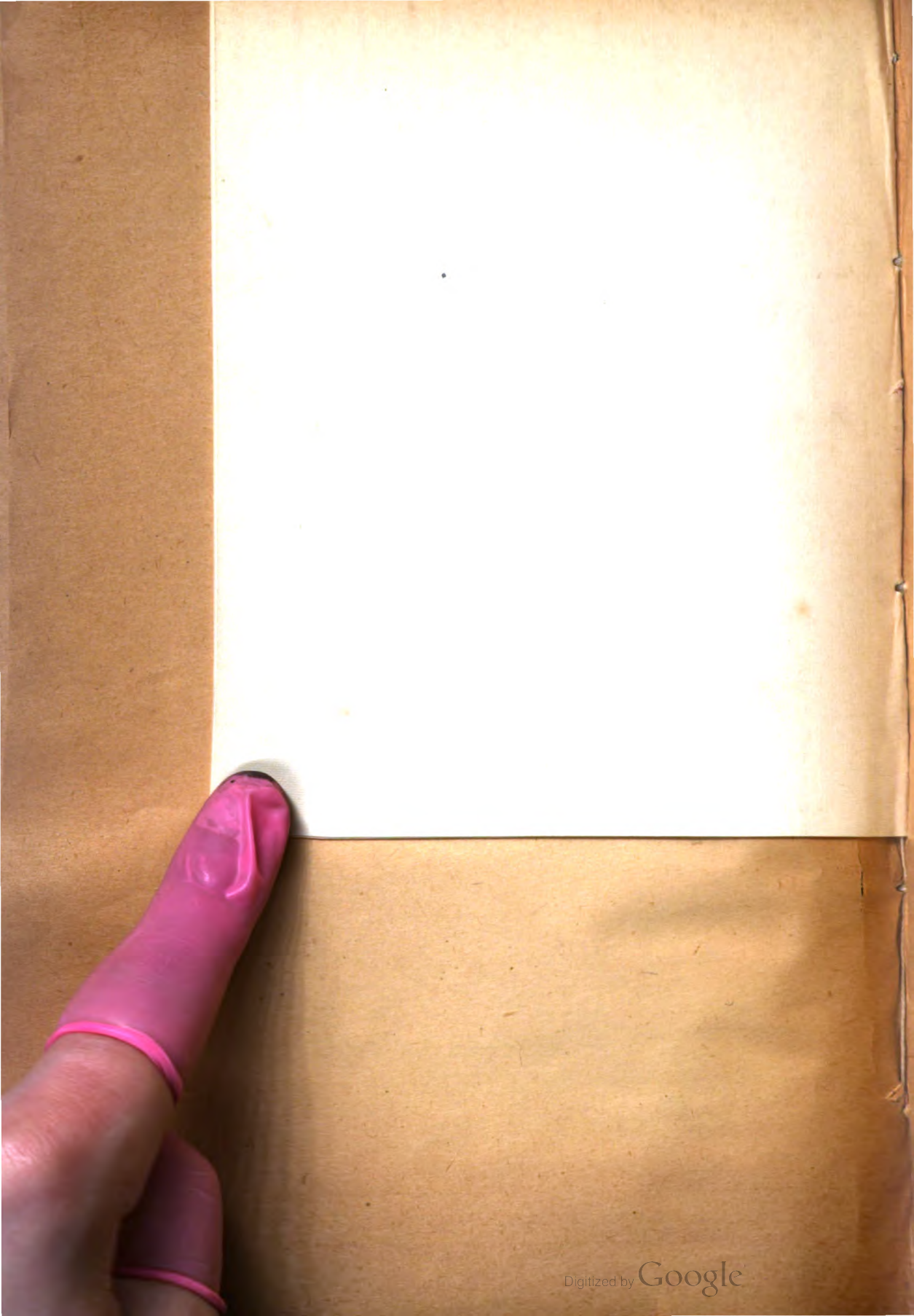
Acting Librarian.

Library Committee:

ALEXANDER MAITLAND, ESQ.
Hon. DARWIN R. JAMES.

Library open daily, 9-1; 2-5.







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